

✓ At page 4, line 5, delete "flammable" and insert in its place --inflamed--.

In The Claims:

✓ Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 6-13, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 4 and 5 as follows:

Sub B1
A2 4. (Amended) The conjugate according to claim [3] 15, [characterized in that] wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antibiotic.

5. (Amended) The conjugate according to claim [3] 15, [characterized in that] wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antimetabolite.

R-126
A2
Sub B2
(Please add new Claims 14-42:)

15-14
14. (New) A conjugate useful for treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease in a subject comprising:

an active substance useful for treating said disease;

a native human protein that is not regarded as exogenous by the subject; and

a linker linking said active substance to said protein, wherein said linker can be cleaved intracellularly, and wherein said linker comprises an azo group.

16
15. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the active substance is selected from the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent and a photoactive compound.

1.126 17 16. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein several active substances useful for treating said disease are linked to said protein through one or more linkers.

1.126 18 17. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the linker has the following structure:



wherein:

R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is selected from the group consisting of C(O), S(O)₂, P(O)OH and

As(O)OH.

1.126 19 18. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the protein is human serum albumin.

1.126 20 19. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the conjugate comprises 4-aminophenylsulphonic acid or 4-aminophenylphosphonic acid linked to albumin, an azo group being present as linker.

1.126 21 20. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the conjugate comprises cytodine linked to albumin, a linker containing an azo group being present.

1.126 22 21. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 14, wherein the conjugate comprises tetracycline linked to albumin, a linker containing an azo group being present.

23 22. (New) A process for the preparation of the conjugate according to Claim 14,¹⁵ comprising binding an active substance useful for treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease to a native human protein that is not regarded as exogenous by the subject, by means of a linker containing an azo group.

24 23. (New) A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease comprising administering a conjugate according to Claim 14¹⁵ in an amount effective to ameliorate the symptoms of said disease.

25 24. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 15¹⁶, wherein several active substances are present.

26 25. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 15¹⁶, wherein the linker has the following structure:



wherein:

R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is a group selected from the group consisting of C(O), S(O)₂, P(O)OH and As(O)OH.

27 26. (New) The conjugate according to Claim 16¹⁷, wherein the linker has the following structure:



wherein:

A₃
R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is a group selected from the group consisting of C(O), S(O)₂, P(O)OH and

As(O)OH

1126 28 27 (New) The conjugate according to Claim 15, wherein the protein is human serum albumin.

1126 29 28 (New) The conjugate according to Claim 16, wherein the protein is human serum albumin.

Sub 30 29 (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein said binding comprises the formation of a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of an azo group or an ester.

009780 " 081600 30 (New) The conjugate of Claim 4 wherein the antibiotic comprises a tetracycline.

31 (New) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a methotrexate.

32 (New) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a sulfonamide.

33. (New) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a nucleoside that inhibits the replication or transcription of a nucleic acid into which it is incorporated.

34. (New) The conjugate of Claim 14 wherein the active substance comprises an acid group.

35. (New) The conjugate of Claim 34 wherein the acid group is selected from the group consisting of $\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{-SO}_3\text{H}$, $\text{-PO}_3\text{H}_2$, and $\text{-AsO}_3\text{H}_2$.

36. (New) The conjugate of Claim 14 wherein the active substance is selected from the group consisting of 4-aminobenzoic acid, 2-aminobenzoic acid, 4-aminophenylsulfonic acid, 2-aminophenylsulfonic acid, 4-aminophenylphosphonic acid, 2-aminophenylphosphonic acid, 4-aminophenylarsonic acid, and 2-aminophenylarsonic acid.

37. (New) The conjugate of Claim 14 wherein the active substance is selected from the group consisting of a deoxyuridine, a deoxycytidine, a cytosine arabinoside, a 5-fluorouracil, a 5-fluorodeoxyuridine, and an azidothymidine.

38. (New) The conjugate of Claim 15 wherein the photoactive substance comprises a porphyrine.

39. (New) The conjugate of Claim 15 wherein the photoactive compound is selected from the group consisting of a chlorine and a bacteriochlorine.